

ADDING CERTAIN LANDS TO THE KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK, CALIF.

JULY 21, 1965.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. KUCHEL, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 903]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 903) to add certain lands to the Kings Canyon National Park in the State of California, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H. R. 903 is to enlarge the boundaries of the Kings Canyon National Park, Calif., to include two areas, Cedar Grove (about 2,880 acres) and Tehipite Valley (about 2,740 acres), which are now excluded from it.

NEED

Kings Canyon National Park was established by the act of March 4, 1940 (54 Stat. 41). When its boundaries were fixed at that time, the Cedar Grove and Tehipite Valley areas, though recognized to be of national park stature, were omitted because of the possibility that they might be useful for water storage projects. Studies in the meantime have indicated that such developments shall not be undertaken, and the opposition to inclusion of these two areas in the national park has evaporated.

The inclusion of these two areas in the park will assist in protecting and preserving them and will, in addition, enhance the attractiveness of the park to the public. The Cedar Grove area, now a part of the Sequoia National Forest, provides an entrance to the park. It is already being administered by the National Park Service under a memorandum of understanding with the Forest Service and was visited by nearly 150,000 persons during 1964. The Tehipite Valley

area, on the other hand, is a part of the Sierra National Forest. It has been described as "an unaltered wilderness gem, accessible only to hikers and horsemen." It is expected that it will continue to be administered without any development except, possibly, trails.

All but 80 acres of the land within the Cedar Grove and Tehipite Valley areas is already in the ownership of the Government. The estimated cost of acquiring the 80 acres of private land is about \$5,100. The committee recommends strongly that the National Park Service acquire these 80 acres and such other inholdings as exist within Kings Canyon National Park at as early a date as possible.

COST

Land acquisition costs involved in H.R. 903 will be approximately \$5,000. Development costs, if any, will be financed under the regular program of the National Park Service.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Favorable reports from the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture recommending enactment of this legislation are set forth below:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., May 11, 1965.

HON. WAYNE N. ASPINALL,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. ASPINALL: This responds to your request for the views of this Department on H.R. 903, a bill to add certain lands to the Kings Canyon National Park in the State of California, and for other purposes. H.R. 6880, an identical bill, is also pending before your committee.

We recommend the enactment of the bill, with the two minor perfecting amendments indicated herein.

The bill provides that the Cedar Grove and the Tehipite Valley areas shall be excluded from the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests, respectively, and made parts of the Kings Canyon National Park.

The Cedar Grove and Tehipite Valley areas extend along the south and middle forks of the Kings River like two fingers into the Kings Canyon National Park. These projecting areas contain lands of outstanding scenic quality and are appropriate for inclusion in the national park. John Muir, the noted conservationist, first visited the Kings Canyon region in 1875 and, thereafter, made several other excursions over this rugged terrain. In the November 1891 issue of *Century* magazine, he vividly described both areas. Approaching the Tehipite Valley generally from the east, Muir referred to it in these glowing terms:

"After a long, rough scramble, you will be delighted when you emerge from the narrow bounds of the great canyon into the spacious and enchantingly beautiful Tehipite. It is about 3 miles long, half a mile wide, and the walls are from 2,500 to nearly 4,000 feet in height. The floor of the valley is remarkably level, and the river flows with a gentle stately current. Nearly half of the floor is meadowland, the rest sandy flat planted with same kind of trees and flowers as the

same kind of soil bears in the great canyon, forming groves and gardens, the whole enclosed by majestic granite walls which in height and beauty, and variety of architecture are not surpassed in any Yosemite of the range. Several small cascades coming from a great height sing and shine among the intricate architecture of south wall, one of which when seen in front seems to be a nearly continuous fall about 2,000 feet high. But the grand fall of the valley is on the north side. * * * This is the Tehipite Fall, about 1,800-feet high. The upper portion is broken up into short falls and magnificent cascade dashes, but the last plunge is made over a sheer precipice about 400 feet in height into a beautiful pool."

The inclusion of the Cedar Grove and Tehipite areas in the park will permit this and future generations to relive the experiences of John Muir and those following him who have been equally inspired by the splendid views from the banks of the Middle Fork and South Fork of the Kings River.

Kings Canyon National Park was established by the act of March 4, 1940 (54 Stat. 41; 16 U.S.C. 80 et seq.). The Cedar Grove and the Tehipite Valley areas were excluded from the park because many of those who supported its establishment conditioned their support on provision being made for water developments that would meet the future needs of the San Joaquin Valley of California for hydroelectric power and water for irrigation. At that time, it was thought that adequate water development for this valley necessitated the development of impoundments of the south and middle forks of the Kings River at sites which would have inundated the Cedar Grove and Tehipite Valley areas. However, construction and operation of the Pine Flat Reservoir farther down the Kings River and other private water developments in the San Joaquin Valley have, for all practical purposes, provided water to fulfill the power and agricultural requirements of the valley. The Bureau of Reclamation believes that neither area is significant in terms of water yield; relative high costs would preclude early future consideration of power development. Incorporation of the two areas into the park would have no significant effect upon the present program of the Bureau of Reclamation.

Some local interests have recently expressed opposition to the addition of the Cedar Grove and Tehipite Valley areas to the park because of their possible use for power purposes. Consequently, the Department made a further analysis of the feasibility of developing the areas for such purposes, and this analysis reaffirms our prior position.

The Forest Service has long recognized that these two areas qualify for park status and that they are unnatural extensions of the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. Moreover, administration of the two areas by the Forest Service has posed several difficulties because the present boundaries between the park and the forests do not follow natural topographic features. Under Memorandum of Agreement of April 16, 1948, between the Forest Service and the National Park Service, the latter administers Cedar Grove. This area is the natural entrance to the park and also the most suitable location for visitor accommodations. From it the park visitor gets his first views of the majestic features of the park and, for this reason, Cedar Grove can be likened to the Yosemite Valley of the Yosemite National Park. Tehipite is equally important for its scenic grandeur, although it is not accessible by road.

There are about 80 acres of privately owned land within the proposed Tehipite Valley addition. This tract is in the same ownership as an adjoining 40-acre tract which lies within the present boundaries of the park. Their acquisition is of low priority since they are remote and inaccessible by road. A current estimate of the cost of acquiring the 80-acre tract, located within the Tehipite addition, is \$5,100. We believe that any such land acquisition costs would be more than offset by the savings in management to both services that would result from these boundary adjustments.

The boundary changes which would result from the enactment of the bill have been agreed to by the Department of Agriculture.

We recommend two minor perfecting amendments on page 2 of the bill as follows: on line 8, change the period to a semicolon; and on line 12 delete the word "and" after the comma.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

STEWART L. UDALL,
Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C., May 10, 1965.

HON. WAYNE N. ASPINALL,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request of January 18, 1965, for a report on H.R. 903, a bill to add certain lands to the Kings Canyon National Park in the State of California, and for other purposes.

Insofar as the interests of this Department are concerned, we would have no objection to the enactment of H.R. 903.

H.R. 903 would exclude from the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests, respectively, and add to Kings Canyon National Park two tracts of land commonly designated as the Tehipite Valley and Cedar Grove areas. These two tracts contain some 5,450 acres.

The Tehipite Valley tract includes 80 acres of private land and some 2,490 acres of national forest land which was reserved from the public domain for national forest purposes in 1893 and now is administered as part of the Sierra National Forest. Most of the tract is contained in a first-form reclamation withdrawal under the act of June 17, 1902, as part of the Tehipite Reservoir site. Most of it also is withdrawn from entry under the Federal Power Act of June 10, 1920. Situated along the middle fork of Kings River and adjoined on three sides by portions of the Kings Canyon National Park, it is inaccessible except by trail and is rough, canyon-type land.

The Cedar Grove tract contains about 2,880 acres. Except for 160 acres which previously had been patented, the tract was withdrawn from the public domain in 1893 for national forest purposes and now is administered as part of the Sequoia National Forest. The patented parcel has since been acquired for national forest purposes pursuant to the Weeks law of March 1, 1911, so that all of this area is owned by the United States. Practically all of the area was included in first-form reclamation withdrawals and most of it also is

reserved from entry pursuant to the Federal Power Act of June 10, 1920.

The Cedar Grove tract lies along the south fork of Kings River and is adjoined on three sides by lands of the Kings Canyon National Park. A portion of it has been developed for public recreational use, including campgrounds and other public facilities. These are accessible by highway along the south fork of Kings River. Since the lands are closely related to the adjoining national park, the recreation improvements and recreational use in this area have been administered for some years by the National Park Service in the interest of uniformity of management and efficiency of operation.

Because of the close relationship of both the Tehipite Valley area and the Cedar Grove area to the adjoining Kings Canyon National Park, this Department recognizes that inclusion of these lands in the national park would provide for their efficient and effective management. We view this proposal as a routine adjustment of the common boundaries of existing national forests and the national parks.

With respect to the precise need for further development of water storage facilities on the Kings River, we defer to the findings of the Department of the Interior and the Federal Power Commission. We can appreciate the concern expressed by the Kings River Water Association for sites which have potential for water storage development. Their present intensive irrigation practices and expected future needs put increasing value on water storage capacity. However, any proposal they might make to provide for continued availability of the area for water development would be for comment by the Department of the Interior, which would administer the area as a part of the national park.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

ORVILLE L. FREEMAN, *Secretary*.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs recommends enactment of H.R. 903.

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transferred from the State to the Federal Government in 1930.

The Cedar Grove tract including the south fork of Kings River and a section on the south side of the Kings River National Park. A portion of it has been reserved for public recreation and is under management and control of the National Park Service. The remainder of the tract, about the south fork of Kings River, since the lands are already related to the national park, the National Park Service and the National Park Service in the interest of uniform management and efficiency of operation.

Transfer of the Cedar Grove tract to the National Park Service and the Cedar Grove tract to the National Park Service National Park. The Department recognizes that inclusion of these lands in the National Park would provide for their efficient and effective management. It is the purpose of the National Park Service to acquire boundaries of existing national forests and the national park.

With respect to the Cedar Grove tract for further development of water power facilities on the Kings River, we desire to emphasize the importance of the future and the Cedar Grove National Park. We are especially interested in the water power potential of the Cedar Grove tract, which has a potential for water power development. From present information, it is estimated that the Cedar Grove tract has a potential for water power development of about 10,000 horsepower. The Department of the Interior, which would administer the area as a part of the national park.

The transfer of the Cedar Grove tract to the National Park Service is recommended in this report from the standpoint of the national park's program.

Very truly yours,
C. W. CROFT, Director

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs recommends that the Cedar Grove tract be transferred to the National Park Service.

March 11, 1933.



